

OK to
enter
9/ 2/8/04

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (previously presented). A composite material comprising a particulate biocompatible inorganic apatite filler material and a fibrous polymeric material wherein the fibrous polymeric material comprises molecularly oriented polymeric fibers of maximum dimension 1 mm and a recrystallised melt phase, the fibers and melt phase being of the same polymer and being derived from common molecularly oriented precursor polymeric fibers by melting a proportion of the polymer of the precursor fibers, the recrystallised melt phase consisting of from 5% to 50% by weight of the polymeric material and having a melting point less than that of the molecularly oriented fiber so as to join areas of adjacent fibers to form a network or continuous three dimensional matrix which binds the fibers and filler together.

2 (previously presented). A composite as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the precursor fibre is of maximum length of 0.5mm.

3 (previously presented). A composite material as claimed in Claim 1 being of a substantially void free form.

4 (previously presented). A composite material as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the inorganic filler is up to 60% volume of the material.